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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Schwartz et al. :
Application No. 09/823,733 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: March 30, 2001 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(f)
Attorney Docket No. 74451.P126 :

This is a decision on the "PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT ABANDONED FOR FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF A FOREIGN OR INTERNATIONAL FILING (37 CFR 1.137(f))," filed June 23, 2003.

The petition is GRANTED.

The request for refund is DENIED.

Petitioner states that the instant nonprovisional application is the subject of a subsequently-filed foreign or international application filed March 28, 2002. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was unintentionally not notified of this filing within 45 days subsequent to the filing of the foreign or international application¹.

In view of the above, this application became abandoned pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 122(2)(B)(iii) and 37 CFR 1.213(c) for failure to timely notify the Office of the filing of an application in a foreign country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.137(f) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reply, which is met by the notification of such filing in a foreign country or under a multinational treaty;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date of the reply until the filing of a grantable petition was unintentional.

¹ A Request to Rescind Previous Non-publication Request was filed April 18, 2002; however, it was not accompanied by a Notice of Foreign Filing.

The instant petition has been found to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.137(f). Accordingly, the failure to timely notify the Office of a foreign or international filing within 45 days after the date of filing of such foreign or international application as provided by 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(iii) and 37 CFR 1.213(c) is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The previous Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i) has been rescinded. The application was published on April 10, 2003.

As to petitioner's request for a refund of the petition fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(7) provides that a petition for the revival of an unintentionally abandoned application or for the unintentionally delayed payment of the issue fee must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m), unless the petition is filed under 35 U.S.C. 133 or 151 (on the basis of unavoidable delay), in which case the fee is set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l). Thus, unless the circumstances warrant the withdrawal of the holding of abandonment (i.e., it is determined that the application is not properly held abandoned), the payment of a petition fee to obtain the revival of an abandoned application is a statutory prerequisite to revival of the abandoned application, and cannot be waived.

In addition, the phrase "[o]n filing" in 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(7) means that the petition fee is required for the filing (and not merely the grant) of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137. See H.R. Rep. No. 542, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 6 (1982), reprinted in 1982 U.S.C.C.A.N. 770 ("[t]he fees set forth in this section are due on filing the petition"). Therefore, the Office: (A) will not refund the petition fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(l) or 1.17(m), regardless of whether the petition under 37 CFR 1.137 is dismissed or denied; and (B) will not reach the merits of any petition under 37 CFR 1.137 lacking the requisite petition fee.

In view thereof, petitioner's request to refund the petition fee must be denied.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center 2621 for examination in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0309.



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